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March 2006
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Allandale Neighbor

DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 3,100 HOMES BY THE ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

We are still seeking a coordinator(s) for the July 4th Parade. Please contact gvasden@austin.rr.com or 459-9347 if you might be interested.

ANA January General Meeting Summary

Kay Newell, kayn7@austin.rr.com

Announcements:

- The US Census is conducting a 2006 Census Test in certain portions of Travis County, Allandale falls into their test area. The US Census is looking for Census Takers; the hourly rate is \$14.50. If you are interested call toll free 1-888-814-6711.
- TAO of Texas has opened a new Martial Arts Institute at 805 Capitol Court, offering classes for men, women, and children. Cathy Chapaty is the instructor and can be reached at 779-5499.

Neighborhood Watch Program presented by Officer Crowder

A neighborhood watch program involves neighbors looking out for neighbors. The area should be a small area, since you need to be able to see all the houses in your watch area. Depending on your street, you should have only ten houses or less in each watch area. The Neighborhood Watch Guide provides you with information on what to do once you have a consensus of your neighbors. The guide includes meeting ideas, how to spot suspicious activity, etc. You can get a packet from Officer Crowder, david.crowderjr@ci.austin.tx.us or by calling him at 974-5545. The application will be placed on the Allandale website <http://www.allandalereporter.org/>

If you see any criminal or suspicious activity call 911 or 311. What you see may be part of a string of criminal activity that you are not aware of. It is important to call the police because it will help them determine a trend of criminal activity. A case in point is the car windows broken along Shoal Creek—neighbors called in to report the activity, provided a description of the car, and the license plate. Because

of the rapid response of our neighbors, the kids breaking the windows were all caught. Don't assume that what is happening around your neighborhood is an isolated incident; let the police know what is happening.

The vagrant law stops at 29th & Lamar. Officer Crowder hasn't heard of any updates to the transient camping law. If you see any signs of transient camps along Shoal Creek or any other areas of our neighborhood, call 311 or Officer Crowder.

The ANA crime statistics show increases around the holidays and summer when kids are out of school. The crimes they commit have few witnesses and forensics, so if you see any activity call 911 or 311 or Officer Crowder.

Dr. Forgione, AISD Superintendent—Realizing Our 2010 Vision and plans for Lucy Reed School

The link for Realizing Our 2010 Vision is www.austinsisd.org/inside/docs/AISDHS_2010_Vision.pdf.

Major issues under development by AISD are to open five new schools and upgrade facilities across the district under the 2004 \$519 million Bond Program, which was approved by 70% of Austin voters. The district plans involve taking care of the students they now have: 20,000 out of 80,000 are in portable buildings. The current construction is for the students already in the district, not for new students entering the district. A new school costs \$15 million to construct and staff, so the question is how to better utilize our existing schools. AISD is on a fixed income, so we want to spend every dollar correctly. The question is—how do we enhance opportunities for our children and stay on budget? AISD is reviewing school capacity and current space utilization to determine how to repurpose those schools. When building new schools AISD has to protect existing schools to achieve a balance.

Lucy Reed School, currently the AISD Professional Center, is the only vacant school in AISD. The Professional Center will be moved to an office building location. In order to bet-

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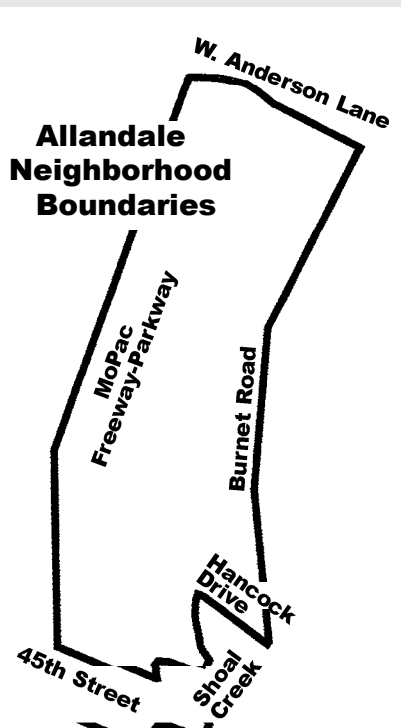
ZONING CHAIR John Keohane
371-3853, keohane@prodigy.net

MEMBERS Pat Briggs, Jeff Frank, Jerre
Heaton, David Levine, Gerry
Schwartz, Cheryl Silver and
Wendy Wilson.

The Executive Committee meets the fourth
Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
at the Yarrowborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive.
Meetings are open to the public.

Allandale Police District Representative

David Crowder, 974-5545,
david.crowderjr@ci.austin.tx.us



ANA January General Meeting

Continued from front page

ter utilize the school AISD would like to move 33 Pre K classes from Cook, Walnut Creek, McBee, and Wooldridge to Lucy Reed. This would allow AISD to better manage and repurpose Lucy Reed. Dr Forgione states he can build stronger Pre K classes and programs if he has all 33 Pre K classes in one school—Lucy Reed. The cities of Houston and Galveston have already adopted this approach to Pre K. This move would better enhance the surrounding neighborhood by having the activity around the school limited to twice a day, when the children are brought to Lucy Reed and when they are picked up to go home. A meeting will be set up for Dr Forgione to meet with the neighbors in February—signs will be placed in the neighborhood and check Allandale's website (www.allandalereporter.org) and listserve (see below for directions) for future updates.

John Keohane, Allandale Neighborhood Association Zoning Chair

We, as good neighbors, need to keep John abreast of all changes happening on our streets. Let John know when there is construction, any changes happening, unusual activity happening, or something you are curious about. Some of the problems presented to John include a home that has no permits but is undergoing change. The owner is now requesting a demolition permit and the neighbors are questioning whether the owner plans to split the property and build two homes on the site. Another involved a home that had a 1996 permit for additional square footage. Another involved people living in a trailer that only had a six-month permit issued in 2003. John has met with the churches along Northland/Allandale, and with the City of Austin Zoning Staff. John asks that all of Allandale be his eyes and ears. You can contact him at keohane@prodigy.net or 371-3853. John would appreciate hearing from all of you, please join him in keeping our neighborhood great!

Neighborhood Planning by Scott Witeman, City of Austin

Scott gave an overview of Neighborhood Planning—why we do plans, how long it takes to develop a plan, the planning process, and how to get involved. You can find more information about the process online at www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/. The process is looking to incorporate surrounding

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neighborhoods with like problems and needs as Allandale has, in order to develop one cohesive plan. General meetings will be set up to keep the neighborhood abreast of the proposed Neighborhood Plan. A working committee will need to be in place before the process begins. If you are interested in being a part of this committee please contact Gretchen Vaden Nagy, President of ANA at gvasden@austin.rr.com or 459-9347. It takes approximately one year for the process to be completed and go before the Austin City Council. The adoption of the plan and the ordinance backing it are both put into action with the vote of the City Council.

Allandale Sidewalk Project presented by Darryl Haba, City of Austin, Public Works

Public Works checks neighborhood plans, has input from neighbors, input from Capital Metro, and from a former Public Works department in order to decide where sidewalks are needed. They have determined a need for sidewalks down both sides of Northland/Allandale from MoPAC to Burnet Rd. The planned sidewalks will be 5 feet wide for new sections, when replacing and repairing existing sidewalks they will match their current size. As the city works its way along Northland/Allandale they will try to accommodate all property owners. They will move sprinkler lines if need be, and if you have a bush or planting that is in the way, they will dig it up for you. If driveways need to have a different angle where they enter the street, the city will take care of that, too. All of the construction will be ADA-compliant and will be at the cost of the city, not the homeowner. The construction is

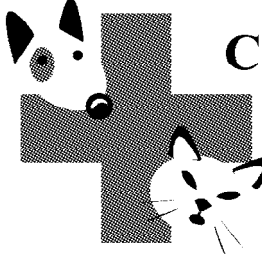
being funded by the rebate Capital Metro makes to the city. The plans have been drawn up, the project has been permitted, the contractor goes before the City Council Feb 2, and construction could begin in March and last for a couple of months. Neighbors immediately impacted will be notified two weeks before the project begins. Construction will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; they feel that they can do all their construction from the street side. Darryl Haba's phone number will be on all the signs around the construction.

Zoning request for a liquor store at 6800 Burnet Road by Sam Buford, developer and Lee Cantrell, owner of Sun Liquor

The request for a zoning change to CS-1, which is a Commercial Liquor Sales zoning, has been delayed three times—once at the request of ANA, once per Sam's request, and the last time because the zoning commission was short

Continued on page 4

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ANA January General Meeting

Continued from page 3

two members. This afforded Sam and Lee the opportunity to bring their request to a General Meeting of the Allandale Neighborhood Association. The ANA Executive Committee has in the past voted against this variance because of the number of liquor stores already in the area, and the fact that Northwest Park is close to this development.

After those for and opposed to the zoning change were given the opportunity to present their cases, a vote was taken and the request for a zoning change was denied. ❖

New Zoning Chair

*John Keohane, ANA Zoning Chair,
keohane@prodigy.net, (512) 371-3853*

Let me introduce myself. My name is John Keohane [CO Hayne], and I am the new zoning chair for the Allandale Neighborhood Association.

My wife and I moved to Austin in 2003, for a job she took with the government. I have taught algebra and geometry at a high school in east Austin, and am now both tutoring students in mathematics, and subbing in both public and private schools. My parents taught government and history, and my only sibling, Robert O., is professor of international politics at Princeton University.

We bought our house in Allandale in 2004, after leasing another for a year.

Part of getting up to speed on my volunteer activity as zoning chair for Allandale was to meet with city staff at One Texas Center and on St. Elmo. I also met with senior staff at three churches along 2222 in Allandale, starting from the west, these are Covenant Presbyterian, the Church of Glad Tidings (Assembly of God), and St. John's United Methodist Church, which is north of 2222 on the street where we live.

In my meeting at the three churches, and to introduce the topic of zoning, I used the following quotation from an earlier generation of Keohanes:

"Modern city planning includes . . . limitations on the use of private property. A property-owner is not permitted to ruin a residential neighborhood by turning his

dwelling into a factory or a garage. Such restrictions are called zoning. Zoning laws illustrate the need of surrendering freedom to do what one pleases with one's own property in order that all may gain greater freedom or enjoyment."

From the high school textbook, "Government in Action", by Robert E. Keohane, Mary Pieters Keohane, and Joseph D. McGoldrick, Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York-Chicago, 1938, page 398

Robert E. and Mary Keohane taught me many things, among them, that our government is our responsibility. Similarly, our neighborhood is our responsibility. I want to encourage you to do three things:

- 1) Go to the [Web] www, get to the Allandale Reporter (our online publication edited by Tom Linehan), and from there get on the yahoo newsgroup ably managed by Paul Nagy. Do this for general information.
- 2) Be a nosy neighbor for your part of Allandale. See who is building or tearing down. Watch, and question, at least to yourself, what goes on in near you.
- 3) Contact me as zoning chair, with any questions you have. I prefer the original contact by email, but I want both an email and a phone for you. Ask questions, even if some will be answered with, "the person has a legal right to do that". In other cases, people may not be able, legally, to do this or that. I can help here. ❖

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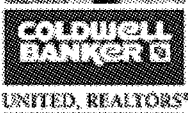
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Gullett's 50th Year of Existence

Anne Jarriel, 451-9444

Gullett Elementary is in its 50th year of existence! The School opened in the fall of 1956 with the current campus opening December 1956. To celebrate, Gullett is having a Golden Gecko celebration September 16th 2006 at the school. We'd like to find as many former students and faculty as possible! If you went to Gullett, access www.gullettgeckos.org and follow the link right under the 50th anniversary logo to register. If you are interested in being on the planning committee or have ideas to share, please contact Anne at 451-9444. ❖

New Teaching Garden Will Blossom With Your Help

Ann Jarriel AnnJarriel@auseea.com

Part of what makes Gullett Elementary such a unique and wonderful school is its embrace of nature: ducks, chickens, and turkeys enliven the kindergarten wing; a koi pond with a splashing waterfall beautifies a breezeway; butterfly gardens attract winged visitors; and chinchillas, a tarantula, and fish vie for attention in hallway aquariums.

In 2006-07, Gullett wants to build on its success by providing students with a new teaching garden, designed for entire classes to explore natural habitats and ecosystems. The garden has already been designed and will be installed in two phases. Eventually this area will have a large container pond, native plants, a raised bed for handicapped access, rain barrels, a dry streambed, and a Native American crop garden. Gullett has already applied for a couple of grants but we need so much more help—financially, materially, and

with good old fashioned gardening. If you or your business can donate materials, funds, or labor towards this project please contact Pam at 302-3467. See www.gullettgeckos.org (under the Native Texas Garden Habitat link) for professional drawings and more details on what is being done and where we need help. ❖

Calling All Allandale Artists and Craftsmen

Jerre Heaton, jerre@austin.rr.com

Allandale artists and craftsmen: If you have an art and/or craft hobby, and you're willing to share the work you've done through the Allandale neighborhood website (www.allandalereporter.org), please email me at jerre@austin.rr.com. If you have a friend or neighbor in Allandale who has such artistic talent or skill please encourage them to contact me. For example, I remember someone on the listserv was looking for knitting classes some time ago. I'd love to see the outcome of those classes. ❖

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Wanting a Home Remodel? Consider these tips.

Cathy Savage, csavage@savageartist.com, 459-9928

My husband and I have been going through a home remodel for the last 13 months. We subtracted about 300 square feet and added 900 square feet (we lost a family room and a half bath, and added another family room, screened in porch, master bedroom, master bath, and office. The addition is now pier and beam, matching the original floor plan). We've had an interesting remodel—a rocky relationship with our general contractor (GC), some good and some bad sub-contractors, stuff done wrong, stuff done not to code, a leaky skylight, etc. Oh, and a pregnancy and birth.


After you decide your relationship can survive a home remodel, my husband and I suggest the following:

- **Know What you Want.** Look through books and create a file of ideas. Scrutinize homes and buildings you enter to see what you like or don't like about the space. Communicate with your architect to make sure what is drawn is what you like and not what your architect likes. Make sure to consider several iterations before deciding on any plans.
- **Talk to your Neighbors.** Let them know the work you would like done on your home. Many neighbors are sensitive to a different-style home than what's in the vicinity.

Courtesy goes a long way and being upfront with your plans is in the best interest of friendly relations.

- **Research.** Find out what you need done and know how it should be done. One reference is JLC Field Guide to Residential Construction: A Manual of Best Practices. This guide will set you back (\$69.99 on Amazon.com) but it contains valuable information.
- **Provide a Spec Sheet.** Write up a spec sheet so the GC you hire knows what you expect.
- **Have a Contract.** Have this signed along with your spec sheet. Even if your project does not require a GC, my suggestion is that you obtain a contract. That also includes an architect. Even if you are friends with the person you are hiring, I can't emphasize enough how you should have a contract.
- **Don't pay until it's done.** Withhold some of your payment until all work is completed. We finally adopted this strategy these last several weeks and have found things move a lot quicker—problems get resolved on a more reasonable schedule.
- **Touch base with your spouse.** If one of you is more involved than the other, keep your partner in the loop of what's going on. If you plan on doing some of the work yourself, have deadlines that are reasonable to both parties. Regular communication about successes and frustrations will serve your relationship well. ❖

ANA's July 4th Parade needs a Coordinator. **WE NEED YOU!** Contact Gretchen Vaden Nagy at gvaden@austin.rr.com or 459-9347 for more information.



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LUT subcommittee picks Option 3

Kerry Kimbrough, 453-0786

At its regularly scheduled meeting (Mon Feb 13), the Land Use and Transportation subcommittee of the City Council once again took up the issue of Shoal Creek Blvd striping. You may recall that, in its previous meeting, LUT tossed in a new monkey-wrench by voting to ignore the stakeholder ballot and to proceed instead with a new design "bake-off". But the dough didn't rise. There will be no "pilot project" on SCB after all.

After two hours, SCB was the last item on the agenda, and committee members were ready to take care of business. Yes, there will be a pilot project, but on some other unspecified street, not SCB. Its primary sponsor, Brewster McCracken, declared his hope that when this pilot project is concluded, we can all revisit SCB with new lessons learned.

Sondra Creighton, Director of Public Works, was there to declare her intention to bring a proposal for a pilot project to full Council in March. So much for that.

Only three citizens offered comments, but it was enough to neatly sum up the entire history of the debate. Michael Bluejay, a well-known Austin cycling advocate, appealed for safe bike lanes. Gretchen Vaden, who lives on SCB, asked to keep the current character of the street with parking on both sides. Allandale resident Jack Kern said we don't need more pilot projects or more discussion—let's respect the stakeholder ballot and make a decision.

So LUT did just that. On a motion by Lee Leffingwell, they voted unanimously to recommend Option 3. What does that mean? Except for the curb islands, which will be removed by previous decision, the street and the striping will remain essentially just like it is right now.

Leffingwell said he chose this option because it is the cheapest and because most neighborhood residents voted for it. The LUT recommendation will now go to the full Council for a final decision, perhaps at their next scheduled meeting.

Another point worth noting was made by Creighton: sidewalks are coming to SCB. Creighton told LUT members that her staff is ready to proceed with new sidewalks in a month or two. Look for more news about this soon from your friendly neighborhood association. ♦

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MoNAC (MoPAC Neighborhood Association Coalition) January Meeting Summary

Kay Newell, kayn7@austin.rr.com

Announcements

- Per Scott Archer/Westminster—Westminster is demolishing the Gateway Church plus relocating a 36-inch water main. Once this is completed, Westminster will make the final decision as to what they will build on the site.
- Clarksville will rejoin MoNAC.
- ANC's (Austin Neighborhoods Council www.ancweb.org/) meeting on Jan 25th included affordable housing as a topic.

Loop 1/MoPAC Corridor Project Update given by the Loop 1 Study Project Team, John Kelly DMJM Harris, Karen Savage DMJM Harris, & Mark Herber TxDOT

TxDOT & DMJM Harris are working on the contractual structure of their contract. The initial work authorization determining what needs to be done has been approved. There is an interim project and a long-term project in the \$20 million contract. The proposed interim project involves the possibility of adding one managed lane from the river to Parmer Lane. The project has to show a need for increased capacity in order to proceed with sound walls. If at the end of the project the collective decision is that no improvement or increased capacity can be undertaken, then there will be no sound walls. The

outcome hinges on the ability to increase capacity on MoPAC.

The process will be environmentally sensitive (NEPA-National Environmental Policy Act) and neighborhood sensitive with each step of the planning. The sound wall process will take into consideration noise mitigation both at the wall level and at the pavement level, with possibly PFC—Porous Friction Course—see section 10.2.1. in the following link www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/management/pms10.cfm. All the measures involved in the process will help determine the best noise mitigation from a wall and pavement standpoint, as well as making driving safer by the use of PFC or a similar pavement. Among other things, these pavements provide structural stability, noise mitigation, and reduce hydroplaning. The following link has additional quiet pavement information www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/pavement/qpavement.html

It will take about one year to reach a decision on managed lanes and sound walls. Research is underway on the above issues as well as drainage issues along MoPAC.

Sample sound walls will be constructed in the fields across Bull Creek from Westminster. There will be three walls approximately 25' long with a minimum height of 10' and a maximum height of 18'-20'. There will be six architectural designs, front and back—these will not be the final walls or designs, but are designed as samples. If the walls prove justified from a sound and cost standpoint, the neighbors that immediately abut the walls will vote on the walls. If a majority of those neighbors vote in favor of the walls, then the wall construction phase will begin.

The long-term planning phase of the contract will begin after the interim project is completed. The team understands the constraints (take no more ROW, no elevated lanes, etc.) that CAMPO (www.campotexas.org) has placed on any changes to MoPAC. The long-term solution may include mass transit, both bus and rail. DPP (Deliberative Polling Process) will be used in the long-term planning phase. DPP has never been used in the transportation field. The Brookings Institute and TTI (Texas Transportation Institute) have expressed an interest in participating in this process. DPP will involve putting together an

advisory group of neighbors, users, and businesses impacted by MoPAC. There will also be an outreach effort to talk to and involve the community. The long-term goal is to improve the corridor without negatively impacting the neighborhoods and to protect the neighborhoods as the changes occur. This is more than just a transportation issue, it is one meant to address environmental and community needs, as well as to re-knit neighborhoods split by MoPAC.

Brief report by Edward Tasch, President BrykerWoods NA on TxDOT's (Texas Department of Transportation) proposed Westover/Northwood/Loop 1 interchange improvements.

This does not change access (the Westover/Northwood ramps will remain open!)

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but rather is an attempt to slow traffic at this interchange; namely slow the traffic exiting MoPAC on the east side. The changes will eliminate the curved bypass ramps which literally slingshot traffic at high rates of speed into and out of the neighborhood, directly across designated pedestrian/bicycle lanes. This project might include sidewalks on both sides. According to Mark Herber, TxDOT is going to address safety issues along MoPAC if and when a managed lane is added. For further information see www.txinfo.com/brykerwoods/Mopac/traffic.html

Brief discussion on future MoNAC meeting topics

Question future commuter rail stations and TOD's (transit oriented developments) along MoPAC and any rezoning issues that might arise.

Neighborhood planning from the transportation side. There is a need to do all the neighborhood associations along MoPAC north of the river and south of 183 as one unit. But it will probably have to be split in half to be accomplished.

Neighborhood planning along MoPAC might possibly be pushed back 18 months due to Oak Hill OHAN.

Have NPZD (Neighborhood Planning and Zoning, City of Austin, www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/) come and discuss the transportation aspect of neighborhood planning.

Have neighborhoods that have gone through the process come in and discuss the process, and how it has evolved. ❖

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page 24 to Join ANA**

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Allandale Appetites

Alison Bogle

Springtime! Although it didn't feel like much of a winter this year, it is still nice to be entering into the season that signifies new life. Many people will soon be celebrating Easter with family and friends. Here is a recipe for delicious and easy bar cookie to share with those that you care about. This recipe comes via our wonderful neighbor, Kay Newell, who found it on the Kraft™ website.

Raspberry-Coconut Bars

1-1/4 cups flour	1/2 cup sugar
1/4 tsp. salt	1 pkg. (7 oz.) Coconut
1/2 cup (1 stick) cold butter	(2-2/3 cups)
or margarine, cut up	1/3 cup red raspberry
3 Tbsp. cold water	preserves
2 eggs	

1. Preheat oven to 425°F.
2. Mix flour and salt in medium bowl. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Gradually add water, stirring with fork until well blended. Press firmly onto bottom of ungreased 9-inch square baking pan.
3. Bake 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Reduce oven temperature to 350°F.
4. Beat eggs in small bowl with electric mixer on high speed until frothy. Gradually add sugar, beating until thick and lemon colored. Gently stir in coconut.
5. Spread preserves over crust to within 1/4 inch of edges, then carefully spread coconut mixture over preserves.
6. Continue baking 25 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely on wire rack. Cut into 24 bars. ❖

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Contest—T-shirt Tagline

Wendy Wilson wendywilson.austin@gmail.com

The Allandale Neighborhood Association will soon be selling t-shirts that promote our neighborhood and the ANA website (AllandaleReporter.org). But, right now, we're looking for your creative ideas about a tagline for the shirt. Taglines are usually concise, like "Keep Austin Weird" or "The Live Music Capital of the World," but we're throwing it open for you to come up with your best line(s), no limits (but remember it does need to fit on a shirt).

- No limit on the number of entries per person.
- Entries should include your name, address and contact phone number.
- The ANA board will select the winning tagline.
- The winner will receive a free t-shirt.
- Entries must be received by March 18.
- Email your entry to: WendyWilson.austin@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more information about how to get your Allandale t-shirts. ❖

Setting Up a Neighborhood Watch

David Crowder, david.crowderjr@ci.austin.tx.us, 974-5545

A neighborhood watch, put simply, is neighbors watching neighbors. Setting up a neighborhood watch is simple. If you are interested in starting a neighborhood watch for your block, simply contact me. I will give you a packet. Inside the

packet it will detail how to get the word out, how to set up your meetings, and other information that can be discussed within the meeting. ❖

Detention Ponds

Johnny Price, *Watershed Protection and Development Review, City of Austin*, Johnny.Price@ci.austin.tx.us, 974-3393

The ZK pond (north of 183, east of MoPAC and west of the railroad) is being enlarged. The detention or flood control capacity is being increased by approximately 50% and a water quality feature is being added to the upper portion of the pond.

Improvements needed due to the enlargement of the ZK pond will be performed at the railroad culvert downstream of ZK pond and in the UT pond (just north of 183, east of the railroad). These improvements are minor and will not decrease the flood capacity of the UT pond.

No pond is being removed with the construction of the mall site.

If you have any further questions about the matter, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

An existing regional detention pond is being enlarged as part of the Arbor Walk development in order to enhance flood hazard mitigation and water quality treatment performance. No ponds are being removed. If you have questions about this pond, contact George E. Oswald, P.E., D.WRE, george.oswald@ci.austin.tx.us or 974-3369, Watershed Protection and Development Review Department, City of Austin, Texas. ❖



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Statesman Article on Urban Density

Tom Linehan

Comments by John Keohane, keohane@prodigy.net, 371-3853

For those of you who didn't catch it, the *Austin American-Statesman* ran an article in Saturday's paper, "Austin charts urban population density" by Jeremy Schwartz. The article included a color-coded map showing relative density within the city but unfortunately the map was not included in the online version. The article is relevant as we begin our neighborhood planning process, a topic that was covered in our General Meeting, January 25th. What follows are comments from John Keohane taken from his post to the listserve regarding the article. John is ANA's new Zoning Chair.

Quoting from that article: "For years, neighborhood residents, developers and planners have fought . . . battles over how much redevelopment and population growth . . . established neighborhoods in the urban core can or should absorb. The stakes were ratcheted up with the release of the Envision Central Texas regional planning effort, which declared that to avoid sprawl, Austin needs greater redevelopment and density in urban neighborhoods. . . city officials . . . say the study's greatest benefit might be in identifying obvious holes, or neighborhoods that are clearly lagging."

Especially relevant here is the color-coded map on page A16. It is easy to find our neighborhood. Allandale is listed as "1." We are one of 61 neighborhoods shown on that map. Among the 24 neighborhoods between 35 and MoPAC and between 183 and Ben White, we are one of only five coded in yellow, as having a "net residential population density" of less than 15 persons per acre (the other four are Rosedale, Crestview, Windsor Road, and Barton Hills).

One member of the Planning Commission is quoted in this article as saying "It can give us an idea of which neighborhoods have absorbed more (population) . . . and which ones we need to scrutinize more."

I don't know about you, but one reason the Keohanes purchased in Allandale is that it is an area primarily of single family homes with reasonably spacious grounds, and that is part of the quality of life we were buying into when we bought. It may take many of us, working together, to protect this, and to make the point, throughout Austin, that neighborhoods such as ours close-in, add not only trees, space, and ambience to the residents, but also real value to the quality of life for the city as a whole. ♦

Every Neighbor Has A Story...

Wendy Wilson, wendywilson@austin.rr.com, 452-8992

Whether you're the original owner of your Allandale home or a recent arrival to our neighbor, we think that you probably have some interesting stories about your life in the neighborhood – stories that we would all like to hear. This column is intended to encourage the sharing of those stories. Several times a year, we'll ask you to share your memories about some part of Allandale's past and then post the responses for everyone to read.

The first topic: What did you think when you first moved to Allandale? (What did your street/neighborhood look like? How did you meet your new neighbors? Were you surprised by anything about the neighborhood? What would we be surprised to know about?)

Please send me your stories that you're willing to share with your neighbors, then check the website www.allandalereporter.org and the next newsletter to see what your neighbors are saying! ♦

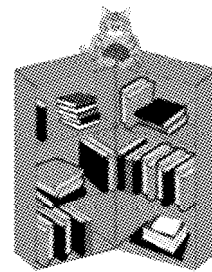
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Austin Public Libraries

Phyllis Brinkley, pbrinkley@austin.rr.com

The Austin Public Libraries that are used the most by Allandale residents are the Yarborough Branch on Hancock, the North Village Branch, the Austin History Library, and the Faulk Central Library (the main library downtown). You can get information about the mission, facts, history, and more on the City's libraries at the Austin Public Library website (www.cityofaustin.org/library/information.htm). What follows are locations and hours of operation of each along with general information about the libraries.

Yarborough Branch

2200 Hancock Dr., 78756; (512) 454-7208

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

closed Sunday

North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Ln., 78757; (512) 458-2239

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

closed Sunday

The North Village Branch Library, which has been open since January 1971 (35 years, this month, and people still don't know where we are!).

We're one of the last two storefront libraries in Austin. Our branch is located in the North Star Home Center, across the parking lot from Yoga Yoga).

Branch Manager: Kathleen Kanarski, since May of 2000.

The Faulk Central Library

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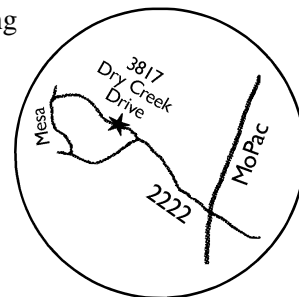
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Holiday Schedule for 2006:

- New Year's: Sunday, January 1 and Monday, January 2
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday: Monday, January 16
- President's Day: Monday, February 20
- Easter: Sunday, April 16
- Memorial Day: Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28; Monday, May 29
- Independence Day: Tuesday, July 4
- Labor Day: Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3; Monday, September 4
- Veterans Day: Friday, November 10
- Thanksgiving: Wednesday, November 22 (at 6:00 p.m.); Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24
- Christmas: Sunday, December 24; Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26
- New Year's: Monday, January 1, 2007.

Visit the centrally located Austin History Center, and view a wealth of research treasures at this nationally-renown local history collection. Housed within the walls of the graceful Italian Renaissance Revival building are many delights for the researcher including:

- official city records
- family and business archives
- manuscripts, photographs, and posters
- oral histories

- periodicals and newsletters
- audio and video recordings
- collection of books and clippings dating from the 1840s to the present. ❖

CORRECTION

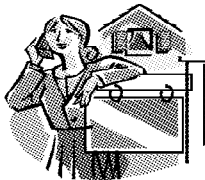
The correct contact information for Assistance League of Austin is 4901 Burnet Road, 458-3716.

It was listed incorrectly in the last newsletter.

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ALERT! Dangerous Parasite in Local Creeks/Standing Water

Cheryl Silver, csilver2@austin.rr.com, 454-7219

Heterobilharzia Americana has been found in dogs who frequent the dog park off Great Northern. It is not seen that frequently, so it is hoped that this information will help in a speedy diagnosis in affected dogs.

The egg of the parasite hatches in water then moves into a snail where it lives the next phase of its life. From the snail it goes back into the water where it eventually invades the host—a dog—by burrowing into the skin. From there it goes into the liver and eventually to the intestine. The dog will become lethargic, lose her appetite, and lose weight. Additionally, the dog will pass the eggs of the parasites in its feces.

Treatment is possible. One of our neighbors has been through this and his dog is recovering, but it took quite awhile to get a diagnosis.

I use the off leash dog park and have seen a sign that someone posted there about this risk (thank you!) and have heard from Scott Bogle about his experience finally getting a successful diagnosis and treatment for his dog.

Please be aware of this risk and please pick up your dog's feces. Feces left on the ground wash down to the bottom of the "pond" and pose a hazard. ❖

Dog Talk: Dog Food and Treats

Cheryl Silver, csilver2@austin.rr.com, 454-7219

Dog food is a recurring expense for all of us who share our lives with these creatures. Information in this article may end up saving your money (in vet bills) while improving your dog's health and quality of life.

Little substantive information is provided in commercials with the marketing of dog foods. It is my opinion that the dog foods advertised on television are, without exception, inferior foods and may be contributing to recurring health issues that could be alleviated with a change in diet.

(Remember, I am not a veterinarian; these are my opinions.)

As a rule of thumb, I recommend that people avoid all foods that contain any of the following: corn, wheat, soy, sorghum, and any type of by-products. If you check this list against ingredients listed on your dog's bag of food—even name brands sold by veterinarians—you may find some of them listed.

One reason for avoiding most of the ingredients listed is that many dogs have allergies to one or more of them. The allergies may manifest in subtle or not so subtle ways. Sometimes the allergies result in avoidable itching, runny eyes, rashes, upset tummy, passing of gas, smelly stools, etc.

Some dogs cannot digest some of these fillers and they exit in the dog's feces. Their presence in the feces may entice other dogs or even your own dog to eat its feces.



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If your dog is on a lamb and rice food that does not contain any of the ingredients I have mentioned, but the dog is manifesting some of the symptoms of allergies, you might switch from the lamb, as some dogs have developed allergies to it.

My own preference is Natural Balance—available at Petco (not PetsMart). (I have no financial interest in Petco or Natural Balance). Others are foods like Innova, Wellness, and Ultra. Ultra is available at Petco and the others are available at specialty stores. They are more expensive than grocery store brands, but you will need to feed much, much less. If you continue feeding the same amount of food, your dog will gain weight, so reduce the portion size.

As far as treats are concerned, consider getting a puppy kibble of a premium food and using those small pieces of kibble as a treat. I feed Natural Balance, but use the puppy kibble of Ultra as a treat. Another thing you can do is take some of their regular kibble and put it in a Ziploc bag and sprinkle a bit of parmesan cheese on it, shake it up and refrigerate it. The dogs will love this doctored kibble as a treat. I also buy packages of freeze-dried liver (which lasts forever) and use it in place of the parmesan cheese—yum.

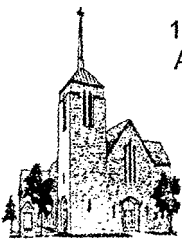
Finally, store the dog food in a cool dark place. PetsMart and the Container Store have some great containers on wheels.

As always, feel free to call me if you would like to discuss dog issues; there is never any charge for my help. ❖

**We'd like you to contribute ideas and articles
to your newsletter!**

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Dog Talk—Submissive Urination

Cheryl Silver, csilver2@austin.rr.com, 454-7219

Submissive urination refers to dogs wetting themselves while awake but not intentionally urinating. The behavior typically occurs when the dog is excited and/or when greeting people. Fortunately, once understood, it is easily addressed.

First, this is not a housetraining issue. It is linked either to the dog's physical immaturity (which will pass) or from the dog trying to avoid conflict—yes, conflict!

The conflict is in the dog's mind – the dog sees a person approaching, giving him eye contact, talking to him, and even reaching out to him. We intend these actions to reflect caring and friendliness, but to some dogs, the encounter presents some degree of stress/anxiety. The dog's response is to revert to infantile behavior that will calm the approaching person—so the dog wets itself.

Understanding that our actions trigger the behavior, tells us what we need to do to address the problem. Most important is that everyone in the family does the same thing and that it be done consistently.

Enter the house calmly and totally ignore the dog. Do not look at the dog. Don't talk to her. Do not approach the dog. If you have been gone for awhile, walk to the door to the backyard and calmly invite the dog to join you out there. When the dog potties outside, praise and reward him with a little treat or some loving. If your dog is crated while you are away, wait a few minutes before opening the crate—again, approach the crate without comment and be sure and look away. Continue to basically ignore the dog for a few minutes. You will see a point where the dog calms down from the excitement of your arrival and the risk of submissive urination will likely be past.

Keep in mind that prior to your arrival, the turning of the key in the door lock, or the knocking on the door or ringing of the doorbell by guests are all part of the pattern of signals that trigger the undesired response. Practicing them will help the dog immensely. So, set aside some ten-minute sessions where you and other household members repeatedly knock on the door, ring the doorbell, or just come through the front door and then walk to the back yard.

This is just a brief overview. Let me know if you want to talk about this in greater detail. There is never any charge for my assistance. ❖

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Cat Containment!

Cheryl Silver, csilver2@austin.rr.com, 454-7219

Amazing—I am not writing about dogs! I have heard from a number of our neighbors asking if there is anything I can suggest to deal with the issue of loose cats. In 2002, I wrote my first article for our newsletter. The article began – “In order to live in harmony with dogs and neighbors, we all must behave responsibly. Most families do want to behave responsibly with their dogs, but lack the understanding of dog behavior to make it happen.”

I am predisposed to believe that folks whose cats are loose also want to be good neighbors and are not aware of the many options available to control their cat, keep it safe, and end the frustration that their neighbors experience when dealing with the various problematic cat behaviors.

I have come to understand that training a cat that has lived outdoors to become an exclusively indoor cat is quite a challenge so I wanted to offer some information on cat containment—a solution that would allow the cat to have some outdoor freedom while keeping him or her inside the family yard.

First I want to share the names and contact information for two women who work with cat rescue and who have experience with cat containment. They have each generously agreed to discuss their experience with folks who might consider taking this step.

- Melissa Ward
Homeward Bound Kitty Rescue
Phone: 263-9941 (Call anytime up to 10:00pm—please leave a message if machine answers, and tell me when is a good time to call you back.)
- Fiona Kozuh
(512) 689-4158 cell

I have some links for different kinds of systems to consider. Some attach to your fence.

- www.purrfectfence.com/outdoor_cat_enclosures.asp
- www.feralcat.com/fence.html

Some are freestanding; others attach to the house.

- www.cats.about.com/od/outdoorenclosures/
(This is a fascinating site.)
- www.just4cats.com/

The one that intrigues me has to be seen. Be sure and watch the video!

- www.backyardcat.com/

Hope this gives you some ideas. If you follow-up on this, please let me know about your experiences. ❖

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info@stjohnsaustin.org

Update from Covenant Presbyterian Church

Elizabeth Christian, ecbristian@ecbristianpr.com

The members of Covenant Presbyterian Church want to ensure we're good neighbors to all who live in Allandale. Part of our commitment is to communicate regularly with you about issues of common care and concern in our community.

Last year, we presented a progress report to you concerning matters related to our campus redevelopment plans. We also noted the wonderful success of our Park & Shuttle program, which is keeping parked cars off the streets in Allandale on Sunday mornings.

Recently, the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church, the church's governing body, adopted a campus redevelopment plan. Our current plan, subject to pending congregational approval, involves: demolition of Children's Hall, a single-story structure located on the west side of our five-acre campus; reconstruction of a four-story Children's Hall on the same site; complete remodeling and re-roofing of Eaton Hall, the oldest structure on campus and located on the north end (Northland Drive side) of the site and; addition of an air lock and entryway to the Sanctuary for the purpose of energy conservation and pedestrian circulation.

We anticipate that our construction and remodeling project will be underway by late May, 2006. At the present time, we are working with our architects and engineers on facility designs.

The remodeled Eaton Hall will house our preschool and our hope is to have this area completed prior to the start of the fall term in late August 2006. Leading up to and during construction of the new Children's Hall, we will temporarily occupy portable buildings on campus for program transition purposes.

Covenant is committed to remaining a good neighbor of Allandale and surrounding neighborhoods. Most of our members live within a three-mile radius of the church. We care deeply about this wonderful area of Austin—and we're working to preserve the aesthetic appeal of our Northland Drive property and to ensure it always fits in with the Allandale area.

As always, we welcome any questions you may have about Covenant's plans. And we especially want to thank the Allandale and Allandale West communities for their support, as reflected in your earlier endorsement of our rezoning which the City Council approved last year. Questions may be directed to Elizabeth Christian, Covenant's liaison to Allandale, or to administrator Fred Clement at 334-3002, fclement@covenant.org. ❖

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*Based on Search in Austin Multiple Listing Service of Houses from 01/01/05-12/31/05 in 78757 Zip Code with Gullett Elementary.

WARNING...

New Credit Card Scam

David Crowder david.crowderjr@ci.austin.tx.us, 974-5545

A neighbor sent this article to me. I confirmed it on www.snopes.com.

Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it. This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & MasterCard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself. One person was called on Wednesday from "VISA", and I was called on Thursday from "MasterCard". The scam works like this:

Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify.

This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a Marketing company based in Arizona?"

When you say "No", the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?" "You say yes". The caller continues—"I will be starting a fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1- 800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works.

The caller then says, "I need to verify that you are actually in possession of your card". He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers". There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the

security Numbers' that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him.

After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?"

After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up. You actually say very little, and they never ask for your Card number. But after one person was called, he called back within 20 minutes to ask a question.

Are we glad he did! The actual VISA Security Department said it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to the card. Long story made short—a real fraud report was made and the VISA account closed. VISA is reissuing a new number. What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card.

Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation. VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card!

If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a "Jason Richardson of MasterCard" with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening. Please pass this on to all your family and friends. By informing each other, we protect each other. ❖

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IPM...Not Just a Three Letter Word

Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist,
854-9600

IPM. You often hear the term, but do you actually know what it is? IPM is short for Integrated Pest Management and is the blending of all effective, economical and environmentally sound pest control methods into a single flexible approach to manage pests.

Here are some easy things to reduce the number of pests in your home:

- sweep and vacuum regularly
- use a plastic bag to line garbage cans and remove garbage weekly
- do not leave food out or dishes in the sink overnight
- clean up any spilled food or drink
- remove old newspapers, magazines and books
- clean closets regularly
- do not buy damaged food products
- store food in sealed plastic or glass containers
- clean containers before refilling
- inspect all items for pests before bringing them into the home
- clean drains with a stiff brush and then flush with boiling water
- remove tree stumps from yard

- remove debris (firewood, bricks, stones) away from the home
- keep lawn trimmed
- repair plumbing leaks
- prune tree limbs that overhang or touch the home; also prune shrubs touching the home
- seal entry points on the outside of the home with caulk, expanding foam or steel wool
- keep screens, weather stripping and door threshold in good repair
- use yellow bulbs in outside lights to reduce the number of insects coming near doorways ❖

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Fire Ants

*Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist,
854-9600*

It's that time of year again....bait for fire ants in the fall to reduce the number of mounds you have in the spring. Remember, most baits take awhile to see results, so be patient. A new bait formulation gets rid of fire ants within a week; the active ingredient is indoxacarb. If you need fire ants killed quickly, you may want to use an individual mound treatment.

Tips on using baits:

- Make sure you have a bait, not a granular
- Broadcasting baits using a handheld spreader can save time
- Use the proper amount of bait for your yard size
- Read the label; it will tell you the rate of application
- Most baits are placed at a rate of 1-1 ½ pounds per acre
- Most people put out more bait than is needed
- Check that ants are foraging before putting out bait
- Place a hotdog slice or potato chip near a mound, leave for 10 minutes, then check for ant activity
- Do not use stale/old bait
- Smell bait to make sure it is not spoiled; spoiled bait smells rancid
- Store bait sealed in the original container

- Try to get your neighbors to bait around the same time as you do; this will push the reinvasion boundaries further away from your property
- Even better, organize a community-wide fire ant management plan, which can help reduce the amount of fire ants within the community and save money on chemical costs ❖

Rats! It's That Time of the Year

*Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist,
854-9600*

Commensal rodents, such as rats and mice, often move into homes with the arrival of colder temperatures. They can gnaw upholstery, books, pipes, irrigation systems and garbage cans causing a lot of damage and sometimes even starting fires from chewing electrical wires.

Trapping is a common way to eliminate rodents. Common traps include glueboards, snap traps and live traps. When using traps, a food item, or bait, is typically used to lure the rodent. Good baits include food items such as peanut butter, fruit, ketchup and jelly. Traps are best utilized when placed along walls where rodents prefer to move. When using snap traps, place traps perpendicular to the wall and place several traps together in succession. It may also help to place traps out with food bait for a couple of days without setting the traps to allow the rodents to get used to getting food from them. Once they begin to take the bait, you can rebait the

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trap and set it to capture the rodent. Traps can be reused. When disposing of rodents either wear gloves or use a plastic bag to release the rodent from the trap.

There are also commercial baits available to poison rodents. If you decide to use baits, do not place baits where non-target organisms can gain access. It is good practice to buy tamper-resistant bait stations to hold bait products to avoid dogs, cats or even children from consuming the bait. Many baits are grain based, so it is important to dispose of the bait once the rodent problem is resolved. Rodent bait left for long periods of time will often lead to insect pests moving into the area to feed on the grain in the bait.

Once rodents are removed from the structure, the home should be sealed to exclude the pests from moving back in. Holes can be sealed with hardware cloth. Check around the outside of the home as well as in the attic for openings. Also, trim back any tree branches overhanging the roof to remove an easy access to the home. ♦

Big Red Retires to Austin Fire Museum

Dale Kirkland, ddKirkland@aol.com, 454-1775

The 1930 American LaFrance Fire Engine, so familiar to Allandale neighbors, especially at our July 4th Parade, was donated to the Austin Fire Museum early in 2004 for the museum's opening. Austin firefighters opened the Austin Fire Museum located at 401 E. 5th Street in the Central Fire Station No. 1, next door to the O' Henry Museum. Current

hours of operation are Saturdays from 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm, or by appointment. Visit www.austinfoirefightersmuseum.org if you are interested in the early days of Austin firefighting, tools of the trade, photographs and unusual memorabilia. It's just a neat place. Big Red is housed presently at Fire Station 22, located at Riverside and Faro Street. Firefighters will be evaluating items that need repair. ♦

The Apple at Work—2004 AISD Bond Update

The Austin Independent School District is working hard to deliver on the promises made in the 2004 Bond Implementation Program. As a part of this effort, every school in the District will receive improvements; 73 projects are currently underway.

District staff would like to regularly communicate with you about the progress we are making. You may find comprehensive information about the Bond Program by visiting www.theappleatwork.com or by calling our hotline at (512) 414-BOND. You may also request our semi-annual newsletter, "Foundations," which has been tailored specifically to the schools in your particular area. So, please visit our web site or call the hotline to request the "Foundations" focused on your schools of interest. ♦

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Constable's Notebook

Constable Bruce Elfant

Throughout my campaign for re-election as Constable for Precinct Five, the most frequent question I was asked was "what exactly is a Constable?"

The term "Constable" originates from the medieval title of an important official in the days of the Eastern Roman Empire called "comes stabuli." In old France "comes" was defined as an officer and Count, "stabuli" was defined as an officer of the Stable, Chief Equerry, or Marshall, generally of the "stabulum" stables. During that period of time, the Constable was chief officer of the King's household, court and often acted as commander in chief of the army, second only to the king. Constables in England can be traced back to the Kingdom of Alfred the Great who reigned from 871 to 899 AD. In about 1066 King William the Great divided England into 55 districts and appointed constables to keep the peace within these districts. By the 1620s the colonies had been divided into counties which became the most important unit of local government. The first American Constable was appointed in 1632 to assist the Justice of the peace in dispensing justice, enforcing the orders of colonial and county officials in both civil and criminal matters, and collecting taxes.

Constables in Texas can be traced back to 1823 when Texas was under Mexican rule. The Mexican government authorized Stephen F. Austin, who had been settling large numbers of individuals along the Colorado and Brazos rivers, to create seven districts with an appointed sheriff over the entire colony and appointed constables for each district. The first constables were elected in precincts of 500 inhabitants in 1828. Constables were included

in the Texas Constitution of 1836 and remain (except during Reconstruction following the Civil War) to the present day.

Texas Constables and Justices of the Peace are commonly referred to as the offices closest to the people. Constable's duties vary widely throughout Texas and are based on the needs of individual counties and the ability and willingness of commissioners' courts to provide funding. In addition to serving process and serving as bailiff for justice courts, some constables in Texas enforce traffic laws and patrol neighborhoods, perform criminal investigations for drug violations, identity theft, truancy, handicap parking enforcement and other criminal matters.

Constables have survived and flourished as a part of local government for more than a thousand years because they have effectively met the needs of their constituents and have been willing to evolve as changing circumstances have dictated. The role of constables or any local office holders, will continue to exist only as long as they continue to provide the services that citizens need, want and are willing to pay for. I only wish we all could be around to see what local government looks like a thousand years from now! ♦

Storm Drain February 2006 Update

Keirsten Tysseland, Kiersten.Tysseland@ci.austin.tx.us

The Allandale Storm Drain Improvements Preliminary Engineering Report was completed in September 2005. The report recommends the following:

- Construct a detention pond north of White Horse Trail.
- Upgrade channel culverts under White Rock Drive and Bull Creek Road.



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- Construct new storm drain systems on Nasco Drive, White Rock Drive and Allandale Road.
- Improve existing channel banks and add erosion control components (channel remains open).

The engineering consultant began designing these improvements in January 2006. Design phase is expected to last approximately 18 months, with construction tentatively starting in early 2008.

For more information, please contact: Mike Newman, PE, Watershed Protection Department, at 974-3372 or Adewale Odufuye, PE, Public Works Department Design Consultant, at 974-7119. ❖

ID Bracelet for Children

Cathy Savage, csavage@savageartist.com

At last year's kite festival we were enjoying the kites with another couple that has a son the same age as ours (4). We were all together watching the kites when we temporarily "misplaced" their son—keep in mind the festival draws several thousand kite enthusiasts, so it was quite crowded and frightening for us and Jordan. Despite every parents good intentions, children occasionally dart away leaving a wake of panic. Like a lot of parents, we've taught our son his address and our names in case he gets lost and needs help getting back home. Our phone number has been too long for him to memorize, so we bought him an ID bracelet with my cell number on the back just in case we get separated. I've had several inquiries at to where I purchased the bracelet, so I thought I'd advertise it here in case another family is interested. We chose the fire engine design to be etched on the front and he loves it, wearing it 24/7. We've taught him who to approach in case he gets lost and how to instruct them to use the number on the back. Luckily we haven't had need to use the bracelet, and hopefully never will, but for \$5.95 it's an extra piece of mind. www.makemethis.com. ❖

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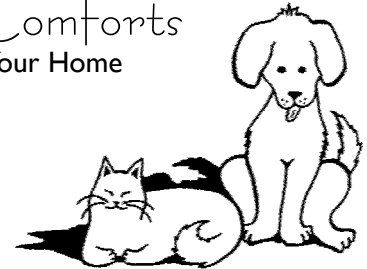
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